

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 BIB-01 /079 W
----- 050864

R 191525Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7728

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, UR, SS

SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET SPONSORED DEAL ON WESTERN SAHARA

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS PASSED ON FOLLOWING REPORT WHICH IT OBTAINED FROM MOROCCAN SECOND SECRETARY: APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO FIRST DEP FON MIN KUZNETSOV TOLD MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR THAT MOROCCO SHOULD RATIFY 1972 TINDOUF TREATY DEALING WITH WESTERN SAHARA, AND IF IT DID, HE, KUZNETSOV, WAS "CONVINCED" THAT ALGERIA WOULD CEASE ITS SUPPORT TO POLISARIO FRONT. ACCORDING TO REPORT, KUZNETSOV DENIED HE WAS SPEAKING FOR ALGERIANS, BUT MOROCCAN EMBASSY IS CONVINCED ALGERIANS KNEW AND APPROVED OF THIS GESTURE. ACCORDING TO MOROCCAN SECOND SECRETARY, MOROCCO HAS NO INTENTION OF RATIFYING TINDOUF TREATY AT MOMENT AND IS CLAIMING THIS MUST WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL PARLIAMENT MEETS IN SPRING, 1977.

2. BRITISH EMBOFF TOLD US THEY FOUND WHOLE SCENARIO A BIT HARD TO BELIEVE. WE PASS IT ALONG FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH.

3. BRITISH HAVE ALSO PASSED ON MOROCCAN SECOND SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEDIATE
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SAHARA DISPUTE IF ASKED TO DO SO BY ALL STATES INVOLVED,

I.E., MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, AND ALGERIA, BUT MOROCCANS DO

NOT INTEND TO SEEK SUCH MEDIATION.

4. IN COMMENTING ON THIS, BRITISH CITE FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S
STATEMENT THAT KING HASSAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD GIVE
UP TINDOUF IS HIS CLAIM TO WESTERN SAHARA WAS RECOGNIZED,
BUT, OF COURSE, SOVIET SUGGESTION FALLS SHORT OF THIS.
REPORTED SOVIET OFFER WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT, HOWEVER, WITH
MOSCOW'S ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE BUT LOW PROFILE
ON WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, TREATY RATIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW13145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760318-1075
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760839/aaaabhdu.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED SOVIET SPONSORED DEAL ON WESTERN SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, UR, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006